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CA TEACHER TRAINING LEADERS CONVENE TO ADDRESS TEACHER SHORTAGES, ENHANCE TEACHER TRAINING

*California Teacher Corps hosts the 4th Annual California Teacher Corps Conference; Features
technology experts and school leader keynotes*

Sacramento, CA – The California Teacher Corps today announced that leaders from teacher preparation programs across the state will gather today in Sacramento to identify how to meet the demand for teachers from school districts. The California Teacher Corps is the statewide organization providing a unified voice for California’s more than 100 alternative certification programs, representing more than 3,000 future teachers.

As announced in 2012 [by WestEd](#), nearly 40 percent of California educators are over the age of 50 and on track for retirement. School districts across the state are also noting a need for qualified teachers in the specific areas of science, math and special education. The 4th Annual California Teacher Corps Conference will bring together numerous alternative certification program leaders from across the state to strategize on addressing the growing demand for highly-qualified teachers.

“California’s students and schools depend on the California Teacher Corps programs to provide a pipeline of highly-qualified teachers to meet their unique needs,” said Patricia Pernin, President of the California Teacher Corps. “Now more than ever, our programs must collaborate to ensure we meet our state’s demand for great teachers to educate the next generation of California students.”

Program leaders will also plan to prepare teachers with technology skills for the 21st century classroom. California will begin implementing the Common Core State Standards this year, which will require educators to focus on critical thinking, analytical skills and hands-on, interactive instruction – including the use of classroom technology such as computerized assessments.

The event will feature the Michael McKibbin Outstanding Educator Award, honoring an exceptional alternative certification teacher. The conference will also feature keynote speakers, including renowned professional development expert Jim Sill (“[Mr. Sill](#)”), who will share important technology skills that can be used by teachers to better prepare students for the new Common Core. In addition, [Dr. Helene Cunningham](#), NAESP National Distinguished Principal of Mariposa Elementary in Brea, CA, will speak about how her school has been enriched by Teacher Corps teachers.

"I've found firsthand that one of the greatest student motivators is a well-prepared, dedicated teacher," said Dr. Cunningham. "I have hired numerous credentialed interns from the Teacher Corps' alternative certification programs, especially in high-need areas where we need the best teachers to serve students."

Alternative certification programs serve as a pathway for individuals with established professional or life experience to segue into the teaching profession, with support and rigorous training. All alternative certification programs hold candidates to the same rigorous standards and levels of coursework that *all* teachers in the state are required to meet.

"Alternative certification programs are an excellent vehicle for seasoned professionals to bring their wealth of experience to California classrooms," said Jim Vidak, Tulare County Superintendent of Schools. "I value the Teacher Corps' efforts to bring knowledgeable, high-quality people into education, helping us to meet our critical needs for excellent teachers."

Teacher Corps programs are meeting California's diverse teacher needs on multiple fronts. Nearly half of Teacher Corps teachers are ethnically diverse, and its programs recruit 50 percent more males than traditional programs, reflecting the diversity of California students.

California will soon face a significant reduction in math and science teachers, and will need [33,000](#) of these teachers by 2019, according to the California Council on Science and Technology. Teacher Corps programs are prepared to meet this critical need and have already placed 2,100 math and science teachers in California schools in the last three years.

California is also experiencing a critical shortage of qualified special education teachers to serve more than 680,000 special education students. Currently, nearly two-thirds of Teacher Corps program teachers are earning credentials in this field to serve these high-need students.

About the California Teacher Corps

The California Teacher Corps is a nonprofit organization established in 2009 with the goal of placing 100,000 highly-qualified teachers in California's communities by 2020. The Teacher Corps provides a unified voice for the state's alternative certification programs, effectively and proactively addresses teacher preparation issues facing California and recruits the best and the brightest professionals to teach in the public schools that need them most. CA Teacher Corps membership trains second-career teachers, and others committed to working in hard-to-staff schools, who have deep subject-area expertise and who remain in the teaching profession. For more information, visit the California Teacher Corps at www.cateachercorps.org.

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